

## KEMAH, TEXAS

Kemah is the Karokas Indian word for "wind in the face." In the early 1900s, it was a busy coastal village where many residents made a living in the fishing or boating industries. From the 1920s to the 1950s, Kemah relied on illegal gambling and bootlegging to survive. After the demolition of Hurricane Carla in 1961, local residents rebuilt and became favorites of Houstonians, who enjoyed the seafood and relaxing atmosphere. Because subsidence caused much of Kemah to flood during high tide, a marina was built in 1988 to ease the problem in low-lying areas. Today, the Kemah area has the third largest fleet of recreational boats in America. When older homes were converted into quaint shops, the Kemah Lighthouse Shopping District was formed. In 1997, property on the Clear Creek channel and Kemah Bay front was acquired in order to develop the Kemah Boardwalk, one of the top 10 boardwalks in America.

Author Pepper Coffey grew up in Kemah. In addition to being a teacher, she is president of the Kemah Historical Society and the grandmother of Lance and Jessie Walker. Cootieion are the board members of the Kemah Historical Society.

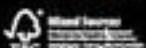
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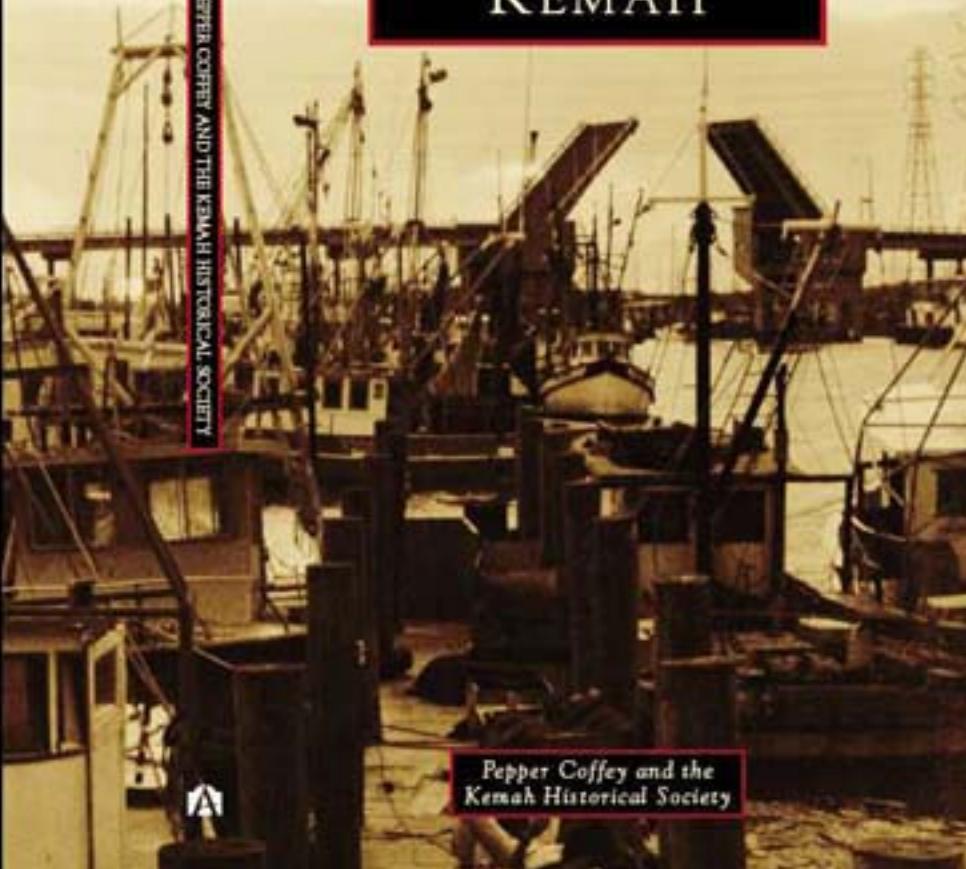
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